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THE GENUS LIATRIS

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The North American genus *Liatris* has been considered one of unusual difficulty. Variability in and intergradations between the species are undoubtedly responsible for the bewildering problems in specific determination. When comparisons of various collections, used for the growing of cytological material, were made with herbarium specimens difficulties arose in the determination of species, and the project grew further into an examination of types and a taxonomic revision. It has seemed that the present summation of results might meet some others' needs as well as my own.

Preliminary work was begun in 1928 by the study of living cultures grown in a garden at Crediton, Ontario, from plants collected by the generous help of many botanists of the United States. Recognition of the great kindness of all those who contributed to that phase of the work will be made elsewhere. Many species have also been collected in the field on a trip in the south-central States, westward through Arkansas and southward through Texas to the Gulf of Mexico. The present treatment is, however, largely the result of an examination of the mass of material at the Gray Herbarium, where work was begun in the summer of 1938, at the New York Botanical Garden, where many types of Small and Rydberg are available, and the National Herbarium, Washington, which possesses a great number of specimens collected by E. S. Steele. Other herbaria have also been visited and particular collections, such as the Greene types

at Notre Dame University, the Nuttall and Pursh specimens at the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, and the Gates specimens at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, have been studied. As well, loans from other herbaria, as of Lunell's varieties of L. scariosa from the University of Minnesota and the University of Indiana have been of invaluable help. Representative collections received, as from the University of Oklahoma, the A. & M. College of Texas, the University of North Carolina, the National Museum of Canada, and the Fowler Collection from Queen's University, Kingston, have also been greatly appreciated. To all the curators of these and to the owners of private herbaria who have been such a help in making available to me so many specimens for study and comparison, I am greatly indebted and wish to express sincere gratitude. To Prof. I. M. Johnston, I gratefully acknowledge the stimulation and encouragement which involved me in undertaking this taxonomic study. I was immeasurably helped by having Prof. M. L. Fernald show me the photographs of type specimens in the herbarium of the Linnaean Society, London. To Mr. C. A. Weatherby, I am especially indebted for having obtained for me during his visit abroad to the herbaria and museums in London, Paris, and Geneva during the summer of 1939, photographs of many other type specimens, without which this study could not have progressed. From all the staff at the Gray Herbarium has come much appreciated help in occasional conferences which I am happy to acknowledge, as I am also appreciative of the ever generous help of the librarian, Miss R. D. Sanderson. To students who have done what must have been exacting typing for them, goes my most sincere gratitude for their help in the preparation of this manuscript.

In citing specimens from various herbaria the following abbreviations will be used:

G—Gray Herbarium, Harvard University; NY—New York Botanical Garden; US—National Herbarium, Washington; P—Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia; B—Brooklyn Botanical Garden; ND—Greene Herbarium, Notre Dame University; M—University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; I—Indiana University, Indianapolis; T—College of A. & M., College Station, Texas; O—University of Oklahoma, Norman; NC—University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Ot—National Museum, Ottawa; Q—Queens University, Kingston, Ontario; To—University of Toronto, Ontario; W—University of Wisconsin, Madison; N—University

of Nebraska, Lincoln; OA—Herbarium of Prof. O. Ames, Ormond, Florida; HB—Herbarium of Mr. Hubert B. Brown, Toronto; WH—Herbarium of Mr. W. H. Herriot, owned by Mr. Monroe Landon, Simcoe, Ontario: F—University of Florida, Gainesville.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE GENUS AND ITS CHIEF SUBDIVISIONS

Liatris Schreb. Gen. Plant. ii. no. 1263, 542 (1791) (nomen conservandum); Endl. Gen. Plant. no. 2270, 368 (1836–1840); Benth & Hook. Gen. Pl. ii. no. 73, 248 (1873); Engl. & Prantl, Nat. Pflanzenfam. iv. Abth. 5, 142 (1890). Lacinaria Hill., Veg. Syst. iv. t. 49 (1762); Porter & Britt. Mem. Torr. Bot. Club, v. 313 (1894). Laciniaria Hill, Hort. Kew. 70 (1769); O. Ktze. Rev. Gen. i. 349 (1891). Psilosanthus Neck. Elem. i. 69 (1790).

Section I. Euliatris DC. Prod. v. 128 (1836). Liatris as

limited by Cassini, Dict. Sci. Nat. xxvi. 235 (1823).

Section II. Suprago (Gaertn.) DC. Prod. v. 129 (1836). Suprago as limited by Cass. Dict. Sci. Nat. li. 385 (1827).

GENERIC CHARACTERS

Liatris Schreb. Perennial herbs, generally from ovoid or globular corms, but sometimes with much flattened or quite elongate rootstocks; leaves elongate, linear to ovate-lanceolate, sessile or petiolate, more or less conspicuously punctate with impressed and resinous dots, the radical leaves usually much longer than the cauline; stems with numerous spirally arranged leaves, these diminishing upwards as bracts subtending flowerheads: heads of flowers in cymosely disposed spikes, racemes or panicles, rarely a loose open cyme; the heads of 3 to numerous (up to 70) similar, tubular flowers on a naked receptacle surrounded by an involucre of imbricated phyllaries in several series: phyllaries lanceolate, ovate, oblong or orbicular; mucronate-, acute-, or obtuse-tipped, herbaceous, narrowly or broadly petaloid with ciliate or deeply erose margins: corolla phlox-purple, or rarely white, regular, usually glabrous without, commonly dotted with scattered resinous droplets; tube cylindrical, usually exceeding the pappus, or twice as long as the pappus; throat hardly at all or slightly perceptible, glabrous within or with little or much pilosity; lobes 5, equal, ovate, acute, erect, or more or less spreading, glabrous or pilose within: stamens 5, included, filaments filiform, equally inserted below the middle of the corolla-tube, glabrous or with tiny outgrowths; anthers short, oblong, about as long as the filaments: style stiff, bifid and exserted after anthesis: achene somewhat cylindrical but pointed at base, about ten-ribbed, pubescent on ribs and more finely between ribs: pappus of 12-40 bristles, sessile in one or more series, plumose or barbellate.

North American herbs: United States, although not west of the Rocky Mts., southern Canada, and most northerly Mexico.

THE SPECIES

Thirty-two species with their varieties and ten hybrids, have been here recognized, though the number of the latter is not definitive. In some cases the wide variety in individuals of an interspecific hybrid has made description impossible. As there is much evidence of intermediate material it is a genus in which it is difficult to draw sharp lines of distinction between the species.

The greatest number of species occur in Florida, at least twelve being known from that state. At the western limits of extension, as in the states of Colorado and Montana or in the province of Alberta, there are probably two species, L. punctata Hook. and L. ligulistylis (Nels.) K. Sch. In the New England States there is probably but one species, L. borealis Nutt. ex MacNab and some intergradations with the species of adjacent districts. In southern Ontario, two species and one stable hybrid occur in the sandy stretches along Lake Erie and southern Lake Huron, L. cylindracea Michx., L. aspera Michx., \times L. sphaeroidea Michx. and a third species, L. spicata (L.) Willd., only in a limited region along Lake St. Clair. A few species, such as those of the series Spicatae (except L. microcephala (Small) K. Sch.) and occasional ones, such as L. ligulistylis, grow in low grounds around ponds or even in wet lands. Most of the species, however, grow in warm sandy places, as in remaining oak-hickory forests or, as across Texas, along dry railroad tracks. Other species, e. g. L. turgida Gaiser, have been more limited to the mountains of the Carolina region, where the Appalachian ranges have harbored a rich assortment of species and extensive colonial growth.

GROSS MORPHOLOGY

Underground Stem. Being perennial plants, all species of Liatris have a thickened underground stem from which fibrous roots spread out to anchor the plant. During the first summer of the seedling's growth there develop a few radical leaves above what appears as a slightly thickened tap-root, but at the end of the season an apical bud is developed from a small crown and this, in the second year, produces the first flowering stalk. During

successive summers the stem thickens, becoming globular or remaining ovoid in most species of all series, except the Spicatae, Pycnostachyae and some of the Punctatae. Very singular is the clustered, slender, tuberous formation of L. Garberi A. Gray. Except for the roots that come off basally and the buds that develop annually from the central summit into aerial stalks, this stem lacks any investment, such as a membranous scaly coat, and could be spoken of as a naked corm, sensu Gray (Gray's Bot. Textb. i. 61-2 (1879)). In accordance with this interpretation we have chosen to use the term corm. In one species there occurs a variation of the generally rounded depressed shape, which appears definitely related to soil conditions. In L. elegans (Walt.) Michx., as it is found from Florida westward through the Southern States to Texas and Arkansas, the underground part is commonly small and globular or subovoid. However, specimens from the Carizzo region of Texas, with no marked distinguishing difference of above-ground parts, show an elongated tap-rootlike growth up to ten times the usual length of the small ovoid form. Mr. Parks of College Station, in describing this region, writes as follows1:

"The Carizzo sand is an outcrop of the Carizzo formation of the Eocene Age. In Medina, Bexar, and Wilson counties it is a very conspicuous part of the landscape. There is a wooded ridge reaching a height of nearly two hundred feet above the surrounding country. It is a sand dune covered by a climax oak-hickory association. The soft white sand in which the trees grow bears very little vegetation, however in the spring and late fall when the rains occur it is very prolific of annual plants which are of a very short existence. It is needless to say that most of these plants have deep tuberous roots".

Thus it seems clear that, in common with other plants of the region, the effects of varied soil conditions are shown in the modification of shape in the subterranean growth of *L. elegans* and such plants are here recognized as a variety (var. carizzana).

In some of the species of the *Spicatae* and the *Pycnostachyae* series, the corm, while growing slightly deeper, broadens comparatively more during the successive years, sometimes to a width of 10 centimeters or more, thus providing a widened crown from which many flower-stalks arise. Such plants have been found to live for more than fifteen years, probably representing the

¹ By private communication.

hardiest of the shallow-rooted species, which advantage, along with the provision of numerous flowering spikes, makes them the favored species in perennial flower-borders. Some buds of broad, old stems grow into new corms and upon separation or death of the old become new individuals¹.

Some species, yet not all, of the *Punctatae* series show a more pronounced elongation during the thickening of the young seedling's subterranean growth into a tough rootstock that grows into the soil, often to the depth of 50 cm. or more. Rarely there has been found a modification of it into a somewhat more prostrate rhizome which sends off aerial shoots at points along its surface, as in *L. densispicata* Bush, in the Anoka sand-dunes of Minnesota. Lack of any such elongation helps to mark off, we believe, such species as *L. mucronata* DC. and *L. angustifolia* Bush from *L. punctata* with which they have been confused.

In the course of a study of internal secretions of some of the Compositae Mayberry (Sc. Bull. Univ. Kans. xxiv. 8 (1936)) described resinous secretory canals in the cortex of the underground stem, as large pockets, 0.9 mm. in diameter, in three species of Liatris (L. pycnostachya, L. punctata and L. aspera). In the roots, aerial stems and leaves less conspicuous canals, from .03 to .01 mm. in diameter, were also reported.

Leaf. The leaves of most of the species are linear or lanceolate, though in some they are obovate or ovate-lanceolate. The early radical leaves, coming from the crown, are usually much longer than the cauline ones. The latter arise spirally around the flowering stalks and generally show a reduction in length from the base of the stem upwards as they become the subtending bracts of the axillary flower-heads. In some species, however, the leaves are abruptly shortened and there results a long strict spike with setaceous bracts which hardly project beyond the flower-heads. Commonly the leaves are sessile; but sometimes the broader basal leaves are narrowed into a petiole. The leaves are generally firm; in some linear forms they are even coriaceous, as in L. laevigata Nutt., though in broader forms they are less so. All variations from glabrous to scabrous blades are found and in many cases within a single species. For example, there can be

¹ In the series Spicatae a number of horticultural names have arisen, which have not been exhaustively treated here.

associated with the more distinctive characteristics by which we recognize the species L. ligulistylis, such as the few large heads with erect, loose phyllaries, any condition from the complete lack of to a complete covering of hairs on upper and lower surface of the leaves. Thus pubescence has been found to be of little use as a character for specific differentiation. In all species, not only in those of the Punctatae series, the leaves have small sunken resinous glands but they may be less conspicuous in some than in others. Pubescence of the leaves may or may not be accompanied with cilia along the margin of the leaf.

Inflorescence. After a period of producing radical leaves, the flowering stalks appear singly on young, or severally (in groups of 2-20) in larger, older plants where a broader crown has developed. These stems are often stiff, tall and erect (as in L. spicata and L. pycnostachya), and the floriferous portions, being covered with numerous closely-developed flower-heads, have been commonly spoken of as spikes, though the development is determinate rather than indeterminate, and they are therefore false spikes. In all species the apical flower-head is the first to open. All variations from strictly sessile, through short-pedicellate to long-branched-pedunculate flower-heads occur. In many (as especially in the Scariosae) there is found variation from a straight spike-like to a pyramidal and paniculate inflorescence, the result of a gradation from the apically sessile flowerheads successively through longer-pedicellate ones to those lowermost which have become very much elongated- and branchedpedunculate. In some species the stems are more slender and tufted with flower-heads more scattered in a raceme-like arrangement which, being again determinate, is correctly a racemiform cyme. In one species (L. cymosa (H. Ness) K. Sch.) there is considerable branching and the large flower-heads are borne more distantly in a loose dichotomous cyme-arrangement, giving quite a different appearance from that generally found in the genus. However, that there are intermediate conditions between this and the false spikes, when the less proximate heads occur in a rhipidial cyme-arrangement, is seen in L. cylindracea (to which series we have attached L. cymosa), and L. squarrosa (L.) Willd. of the closely related series. Thus, though for strict correctness the inflorescence should be spoken of as reversely or

falsely spicate and a reversed or determinate raceme, it is expected that the explanation here will suffice to permit an understanding of the unqualified terms used throughout the discussion of the genus. The rachis of the inflorescence is sometimes glabrous and may be striate, as exemplified in *L. microcephala*. More frequently it is pubescent above and glabrous below, though occasionally the entire stalk is puberulent or covered with pubescence of short cinereous or longer hairs.

Flower-Head. The heads in Liatris contain from 3-4 to 50-70 flowers. Exceptional are the terminal heads¹, which regularly have a greater number of flowers in almost all species. In some species there is a marked increase in the apical head, as in L. ligulistylis. In certain species which normally have few heads, such as L. cylindracea and L. squarrosa (L). Willd., reduction to one-headed specimens often occurs, perhaps under unfavorable conditions. This has given rise to naming oneflowered varieties, which seems inadvisable to the author. Also in other species having a generally spicate inflorescence of numerous close heads occasional specimens show terminal ones very much larger than the rest, as, for instance, in L. punctata var. turgida Lunell (Amer. Mid. Nat. v. 241 (1918)). Since specimens with such exceptional terminal fusion of heads have been found to occur in different species, again varietal ranking has not here been recognized. Heads having few flowers may be short, cylindrical, ca. 6-8 mm. long in L. microcephala, or quite long and cylindrical as in L. punctata—ca. 1.5-2 cm. long. With more flowers per head, as in the Graminifoliae series, where approximately one dozen is an average number, the stoutish cylindrical buds give, when the flowers open, heads that are somewhat turbinate in shape. Many-flowered heads are hemispherical, ovoid or almost globular, their outward appearance varying, largely due to the nature of the phyllaries. Measurements given were taken, whenever possible, from heads with open flowers, the width at the tip of the corolla and the length from there to the base of the head.

In species of *Liatris* there is a wider variation in the form of the phyllaries than of the leaves. In those of few-flowered heads

¹ In stating the number of flowers per head in any description of species, heads other than the terminal one, being more uniform, are referred to.

there may be small outer foliaceous, linear or ovate, closely appressed bracts that become gradually more membranous and generally more elongate inwardly. They may, however, vary generally from acute or mucronate to obovate, and may be glabrous, punctate or pubescent. They may also become recurved and slightly colored, though rarely are they petaloid. In the exceptional L. elegans (Walt.) Michx., the phyllaries have become much elongated and colorful, either pink or white and, being loosely arranged, give an altogether distinctive appearance. In species with many-flowered heads there occur the same variations in shape, margin and texture of the many phyllaries as in those with few-flowered heads. But there have developed as well many petaloid forms, many of which, without further classification, have sometimes been ascribed to L. scariosa, which had thus become a fine "melting pot". In L. ligulistylis these petaloid phyllaries with deeply erose margins stand loosely erect. In L. aspera Michx. a combination of petaloid and crisped condition is found. In other species, as L. borealis, there is only a narrow scarious margin which may become finely ciliolate, and the phyllaries stand loosely erect, while in L. scariosa, phyllaries of similar margin may be recurved. The endless intermediates and variations between these prime types has given rise to much confusion. In L. squarrosa (L.) Willd. where the recurved condition of the phyllaries has not been accompanied with petaloid development, intermediates between the appressed and the squarrose types have likewise been numerous. In L. pycnostachya Michx. the degree to which the phyllaries are reflexed also varies. In the Spicatae and Pycnostachyae series there is considerable variation from colorful to strictly green herbaceous involucre but care must be taken to compare specimens of the same age since, after flowering time when the seeds mature, phyllaries that had color usually lose it and become green.

FLOWER. Corolla. The corolla is tubular, slightly dilated upwards, with an almost imperceptible narrowing at the throat, and with ovate to lanceolate, acute lobes from \(\frac{1}{4}-\frac{1}{3}\) the length of the tube. The length of the corolla varies from ca. 5 mm. in smaller species to ca. 20 mm. in members of the Squarrosae series. The wide-spreading lobes of two sections represented by

¹ Measurements were made after boiling the corolla.

L. squarrosa and L. cylindracea, having the largest corollas, have, since the time of Nuttall's observation "internally villous" (Nutt. Gen. ii. 132 (1818)), been characterized as "hairy within" (Gray, Man. Bot. ed. 7). Colorless cellular outgrowths, ca. 2 mm. long in L. cylindracea, can be seen projecting along the margin of the lobes in fresh flowers without the aid of a hand-lens. The throat of the corolla-tube of many species appears almost translucently clear both in pressed and fresh specimens, but in others does not. Within the tube of all species, five stamens, having filaments about equal in length to the laterally united anthers, are inserted about the middle of the throat. By splitting the tube with a fine needle and examining it with a dissecting lens, small colorless cellular hair-like outgrowths ca. 50-100 µ long (which is only a fraction of the length of those on the lobes of Squarrosae species) are sometimes found to be abundant about and below the region of stamen-attachment in the throat. In one series, Tenuifoliae, smaller outgrowths come from the filaments. Quite unexpectedly, the presence of this pilosity within the throat of the corolla proved to coincide with other diagnostic characters in some pairs of species that were otherwise difficult to separate, and specific differentiation was thereby strengthened: as, for example, L. spicata without and L. graminifolia (Walt.) Willd. with hairs; or L. ligulistylis without and L. aspera with hairs. Care must be exercised since on hasty examination fungal filaments, sometimes found in herbarium specimens might be mistaken for such pilosity.

Commonly on microscopic examination of herbarium specimens, tiny resinous droplets are seen distributed over the corolla, but, as the occurrence of such probably transitory secretions was not consistent for all specimens of a species, no proof of their lack in any species was found.

Color. Liatris flowers are all of approximately one color, somewhere near phlox-purple by Ridgway's color chart, though they vary in intensity of the shade, except for the occasional white forms. The latter differ in no way from the species' descriptions except for the corolla-color. The one general exception is in L. elegans, where the phyllaries, which are so much

¹ A singular example of a yellow corolla is found in L. elegans f. Fisheri Standley (Field Mus. Pub. xi. 275 (1936)), a plant with "both the flowers and the long petallike tips of the bracts lemon-yellow in color".

expanded and which add much beauty, as the name of the species suggests, to the heads are white and green accompanying white or mauve-tinted flowers, or there may be pinkish-green bracts accompanying the white flowers. Through southern Arkansas and Texas, where I have observed the species, the white- and purplish-flowered plants seemed equally abundant and successful and yet but one species could be recognized. The author's experience in transplanting white-flowered forms of at least four other species along with those of normal color (L. aspera¹, L. punctata², L. spicata³, and L. cylindricea⁴), has been that the white forms never survive longer than about one year after transplantation, though the companion plants of normal color have lived on for a number of years. This experience was borne out by that of Mr. A. C. Edinborough of Baljennie, Saskatchewan, who transplanted the white-flowered form of L. punctata to soil similar to that of its native habitat in the Eagle Hills. Apparently, in species of Liatris the white-flowered forms merely represent weaker mutants; they are therefore not being given varietal rank.

Apart from the reference to one sweet-scented variety, Lacinaria scariosa var. trilisioides Farwell (Rep. Mich. Acad. Sci. xvii. 170–171 (1916)), which has not been encountered, only one species, L. tenuifolia Nutt., has been reported⁶ as noticeably fragrant. Where hundreds and thousands of plants grew the air was said to be "delicately scented, much like that of the Buddleia slightly modified, and sufficient to arrest one's attention". The observer noticed that many butterflies and bees had been drawn to the spot and also that the three albino plants found in the region were likewise fragrant.

FRUIT. The fruit of *Liatris* is a ribbed, somewhat cylindrical achene, finely pointed at the base, varying in length from ca. 3 mm. in some species to ca. 10 mm. in the largest. In color, as in size, considerable difference can be noted between unfilled fruits and completely matured ones, and therefore care must be taken when giving color from examination of herbarium speci-

¹ Found near Pt. Edward, Lambton Co., Ontario, Aug. 26, 1938, no. 168.

² Received from Mr. A. C. Edinborough, Baljennie, Sask. Aug. 24, 1939, no. 202, pl. 1.

³ Found at Walpole Is., Lambton Co., Ontario, Aug. 26, 1938, no. 166.

⁴ Found at Turkey Point, Norfolk Co., Ontario, Aug. 27, 1940, no. 213.

⁵ By private communication.

⁶ By private communication from Mrs. H. T. Butts, Ormond Beach, Fla. Oct. 1944.

mens. Mostly the mature achenes are of a brown color, but in some species they approach black. The number of ribs was not uniform; in most specimens ca. 10 was the average. In all species the achenes are pubescent along the ribs and more finely and inconspicuously so between the ribs. Though in some cases achenes showed angles, appearing as if developed by close approximation during growth, no specific coordination could be found.

Pappus. One must be careful in stating the color of the pappus, since if not mature, it is colorless, as in L. ligulistylis, but purple when mature.

There is considerable difference in the appearance of the pappus of Liatris species. In L. punctata for instance, the tuft of bristles appears feathery or plumose to the naked eye. Upon closer examination there are found 20-30 setae, from 8-10 mm. in length, with lateral cilia considerably longer than the diameter of the seta, a condition called setose-plumose by J. Small, New. Phytol. xvi.-xviii. (1917-1919). The bristles are arranged indefinitely in one to two series. In other species, for example L. gracilis Pursh, where there are 30-40 bristles 4-5 mm. long per achene, there is no downy appearance, as the setae have projecting outgrowths about as long as, or only slightly longer than, the diameter of the seta—this called setose-barbellate (Small, l. c.). This character was used by Cassini in the division of the genus into three subgenera, two of which, Suprago and Euliatris, were made sections by DeCandolle; the third is now a separate genus, Trilisa DC. These sectional divisions of the genus are here retained.

Though there is never uniformity in the length of all the bristles of an achene, the over-all length of the pappus, obtained by measuring the longest bristles, generally exceeds the length of the achene, and is shorter than, or about equalling, the corolla. In a few cases as in *L. Helleri* Porter, it is only about half the length of the corolla-tube.

KEY TO THE SECTIONS AND SERIES

- a. Pappus barbellate, the lateral cilia only 3-6 times the diameter of the seta, so that they are hardly visible without the use of a lens. Section I Suprago (Cass.) DC...b.
 - b. Heads 3-20-flowered, oblong, with phyllaries mostly erect....c.
 c. Inflorescence spicate, the heads mostly sessile; leaves numerous, gradually reduced to bracts subtending the heads; no pilosity within the corolla-tube....d.

| d. Phyllaries obtuse, appressed and never recurved Spicatae. d. Phyllaries acuminate and recurved at the tips Pycnostachyae. c. Inflorescence loosely spicate or racemose, with sessile or variously peduncled heads; corolla pilose within the |
|---|
| ${f tube \dots e}.$ |
| e. Phyllaries obtuse, ciliolate; inflorescence frequently panicled; heads 5-15-flowered |
| e. Phyllaries lanceolate-acuminate, appressed to the tips, |
| not ciliolate; heads 3-5-flowered |
| c. Inflorescence spicate, with the basal rosette of leaves |
| changing abruptly to setaceous bracts; corolla-tube |
| not pilose, but with short hairs on the filaments of the |
| stamens; heads with 3-6 flowers and few loosely erect |
| phyllaries |
| b. Heads 15-70-flowered, hemispheric; the numerous broad |
| phyllaries loosely erect, bullate or partly recurved; |
| corolla pilose within the tube (except in L. ligulistylis) Scariosae. |
| a. Pappus plumose, the lateral cilia 15 or more times the diam- |
| eter of the seta, so that these appear plumose to the naked |
| eye. Section II Euliatris (Cass.) DCf. |
| f. Heads 4-8-flowered, slender-cylindrical; inflorescence spi- |
| categ. |
| g. Phyllaries with prolonged petaloid tips; corolla not at all |
| pilose within |
| g. Phyllaries herbaceous and appressed, or with tips only |
| free; corolla quite pilose within the tube |
| |
| f. Heads 15–60-flowered, of more nearly isodiametric-cylin- drical proportions; inflorescence loosely cymose to cy- mose-racemoseh. |
| |
| h. Phyllaries appressed |
| ii. I hymanics recurred of loosely spreading |

DESCRIPTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE SPECIES

Series I. Spicatae. Mostly glabrous plants with numerous spikes from globular to large-crowned, perennial stocks; leaves linear, gradually diminishing upwards from the long basal ones; heads numerous, 4–18-flowered, 1–1.5 cm. long with phyllaries erect, oblong, mostly obtuse, appressed, never recurved; corollatube non-pilose within; achene 4–7 mm. long.—From New York and southern Ontario to South Dakota and Colorado, south to Florida, the Gulf States and New Mexico, with only one species not of moist habitats.

| a. Flowering stems stout, 6-15 dm. high; spikes dense; heads |
|---|
| 4–18-flowered; phyllaries mostly obtuseb. b. Plants with narrowly linear leaves; on moist meadows or in |
| damp woodlands east of the Mississippi |
| b. Plants with broadly linear leaves; on the bottomlands in |
| the Western Plains States and the mountains of New |
| Mexico |
| a. Flowering stems more flexible, 3-8 dm. high; head 3-6- |
| flowered; phyllaries obtuse, obtuse-mucronulate or acu-minatec. |
| c. Glabrous plants; corms roundedd. |

d. Phyllaries narrowly oblong, obtuse; leaves narrowly linear, diminishing gradually upwards; more tufted plants with several stems of fewer heads in racemes

3. L. microcephala.

d. Phyllaries ovate to lanceolate, acuminate; basal leaves long, narrowly linear, the upper cauline ones abruptly changing to short subulate blades; plants of 1-4 spicate

c. Hirsute plants; roots elongated and tuberous; spicate; phyllaries oblong and obtuse-mucronulate; from South

1. Liatris spicata (L.) Willd. Rootstock globose in young plants, enlarged and shallow in old plants by separation of parts permitting considerable vegetative propagation: stems stiff and tall, 6-15 dm. high, glabrous, only rarely hirsute: leaves numerous, linear or linear-lanceolate, glabrous or sparingly hirsute along the veins; lower ones 1-4 dm. long, 5-20 mm. wide, gradually shorter toward the summit of the stem: inflorescence a dense spike 3-7 dm. long: heads subcylindrical, 4-18-flowered, usually sessile along the spike, although basal heads may become peduncled, 8-15 mm. long and 5-10 mm. thick at time of flowering; phyllaries appressed, sometimes glutinous, elliptical-oblong, mostly obtuse but sometimes slightly acuminate, herbaceous, glabrous and having a narrow scarious margin frequently purplish at flowering time; corolla phlox-purple, lacking any pilosity within the tube, 6.5-9 mm. long; achene 4-6 mm. long; pappus 5-7 mm. long, barbellate-setose (not plumose to the naked eye).— Sp. Pl. iii³. 1636, (1803). Serratula spicata L. Sp. ii. 819 (1753) (excl. synonomy).

Var. typica. A thick-spiked, marsh-loving plant mostly from the more northern latitudes of the range of the species and around mountain lakes and bogs in the southern Appalachian region: stems frequently 5 mm. in diameter at the base and 10-15 dm. tall, glabrous or basally with few scattered hairs: leaves glabrous; the wider basal ones linear-lanceolate, 1 dm. or more long, 5-20 mm. wide: inflorescence usually a dense spike 3-7 dm. long; the heads of 10-18 flowers 1-1.5 cm. long and ca. 1 cm. thick, cylindrical, with an appressed involucre that is sometimes adherent by its glutinous nature; phyllaries glabrous, mostly green or somewhat purplish at time of flowering, with a narrow scarious margin: corolla usually phlox-purple, occasionally white.-Serratula spicata L. Sp. ii. 819 (1753), excl. synonyms. Liatris spicata Willd. Sp. Pl. iii³. 1636 (1803); Andr. Bot. Repos. t. 401 (1804); Curtis's Bot. Mag. t. 1411 (1811); Sweet, Brit. Fl. Gard. ser. 2, t. 49 (1823); Torr. & Gray, Fl. N. Am. ii. 73 (1841); Torr. Fl. N. Y. 325, t. 47 (1842); Gray, Synop. Fl. i². 111 (1884). L. macrostachya Michx. Fl. Bor.-Am. ii. 91 (1803). L. spicata 3. macrostachya DC. Prodr. v. 130 (1836). L. magnifica Hort.

Hand-List of Herbaceous Plants Cultivated in the Royal Gardens, Kew 263 (1895), nomen. L. spicata f. albiflora Britton, Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, xvii. 124 (1890). Lacinaria spicata var. albiflora Britton, Mem. Torr. Bot. Club, v. 314 (1894) Laciniaria spicata f. albiflora House, Bull. N. Y. State Mus. 243–4, 69 (1923). Lacinaria spicata var. foliacea Farwell, Amer. Mid. Nat. ix. 260 (1925).

Moist or marshy land from Long Island, New York, to Florida, and westward to the Mississippi, from the Lake St. Clair region of Ontario and Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico.—MASSACHU-SETTS (possible garden escapes). Essex Co.: Lawrence, without collector's name, 1877 (G). Worcester Co.: roadside near Quinsigamond, Sept. 21, 1932, N. P. Woodward (G). CON-NECTICUT (possible garden escape). Without stated locality, Hitchcock (NY). NEW YORK. ALBANY Co. (possible escapes): sandy plains, near Londonville, Aug. 14, 1937, H. D. House, 24958 (G, NY); near Londonville, Aug. 13, 1934, H. D. House, ¹21980 (G, NY). Suffolk Co.: White Mills, Long Isl., Sept. 19, 1887, J. F. Poggenburg (G). Queens Co.: swamps, Woodhaven, Long Isl., Sept. 14, 1892, A. Brown (NY); (albino), Forbell's Landing, Long Isl., Aug. 29, 1890, G. D. Hulst (NY). PENN-SYLVANIA. Without stated locality: Aug. 1832, C. J. Moser (NY). BUTLER Co.: low field, Aug. 8, 1923, S. S. Dickey, 76 (G). Bucks Co.: near Argus, Ridge Valley, Aug. 14, 1923, C. D. Fretz (G). Montgomery Co.: thicket in old brick-yard near West Telford, Aug. 23, 1909, W. M. Benner (G). Delaware Co.: open woods, Aston Mills, Oct. 16, 1926, F. W. Pennell, 13118 (NY). Berks Co.: rather moist soil in a low meadow, 2.4 mis. n. e. of Geigertown, Aug. 1, 1942, W. C. Brumbach, 3388 (G): CHESTER Co.: Oxbow of Octoraro Creek, above Octoraro, Sept. 23, 1928, F. W. Pennell, 14607 (NY); LANCASTER Co.: without stated locality, Aug. 1858-64, S. P. Sharples (G), Sept. 18, 1868, T. C. Porter (US). York Co.: McCall's Ferry, Sept. 9, 1893, A. A. Heller & E. G. Halbach, 1273 (NY, US); dry woods, McCall's Ferry, Sept. 2, 1898, A. MacElwee (US). NEW JERSEY. Without stated locality, A. Gray (G), P. D. Knieskern (G). Sussex Co.: Franklin Furnace, Aug. 1, 1884, O. E. Pearce (US); Aug. 15, 1895, W. N. Van Sickle (US). Passaic Co.: Clifton (white form), Aug. 18, 1891, G. V. Nash (NY); moist ground along rwy., Newfoundland, Aug. 3, 1893, W. M. Van-Sickle (US). Somerset Co.: in rich woods, Watchung, Aug. 8, 1930, H. Moldenke, 1358 (NY); in field at edge of woods, on First Mt., Watchung, July 31, 1937, H. Moldenke, 9996 (NY); along roadside, in woods, Watchung, Aug. 1, 1924, H. Moldenke, 2111 (NY); near Bernardsville, (forma albiflora), Aug. 12, 1890,

A note on this sheet states: "spreading from cultivation", so that it seems probable that when introduced in a favorable location, this species may become naturalized.

Miss A. M. Vail (NY). MIDDLESEX Co.: Perth Amboy, Aug. 25, 1893, L. H. Lighthipe (US). Ocean Co.: Bayhead, Barnegat Bay, Aug. 24, 1892, J. R. Churchill (G); Bayhead (forma albiflora), Aug. 29, 1890, L. H. Lighthipe (NY); border brackish marsh, 2 mis. e. of Manahawkin, Aug. 13, 1936, J. M. Fogg, 11172 (G). DELAWARE. Newcastle Co.: near Delany's Chapel, Sept. 1899, W. M. Canby (G). Kent Co.: Brandywine, 1843, E. Tatnall (G). MARYLAND. BALTIMORE Co.: Catonsville, Aug. 10, 1873, Morong (NY), E. Foreman (NY). VIRGINIA. Without stated locality: Dr. Bauer (NY). FAIRFAX Co.: (possible escape), near mouth of Difficult Run, Sept. 25, 1909, F. W. Pennell (US). Montgomery Co.: Blacksburg, Aug. 3, 1895, W. A. Murrill (NY). GILES Co.: Brush Mt., 2 mi. e. of Newport, Aug. 30, 1933, E. J. Alexander, J. H. Everett, & S. D. Pearson (NY). WEST VIRGINIA. HAMPSHIRE Co.: Millbrook, Aug. 11, 1940, W. M. Frye, 154, 157 (NY). FATETTE Co.: Nuttall, Aug. 11, 1891, C. F. Millspaugh, 1115 (NY); New River, Cotton Hill, July 6, 1929, W. V. U. Biol. Exped. (G). NORTH CAROLINA. BUNCOMBE Co.: slopes of Cedar Cliff Mt., Aug. 24, 1897, Biltmore Herb., 579 d (NY, US); Biltmore, Aug. 1894, Biltmore Herb. 579 (US). HENDERSON Co.: Hendersonville, Aug. 22, 1891, J. D. Smith (G, US). Transylvania Co.: Green Knob in Pisgah Forest, Aug. 1908, H. D. House, 3682 (G). SOUTH CAROLINA. KERSHAW Co.: Camden, July 27-28, 1906, H. D. House, 2658 (NY, US). Beaufort Co.: Beaufort district, 1882, J. H. Mellichamp, 399 (US); Bluffton, 1886, J. H. Mellichamp, 9, 10 (US); GEORGIA. CATOOSE Co.: Chickamauga Creek, near Springgold, Aug. 6-12, 1895, J. K. Small (NY, US). Dade Co.: along C. &. D. Rwy., Lookout Mt., July, 1898, A. Ruth, 675 (NY); Lookout Mt., July, 1898, A. Ruth, 658 (US). RICHMOND Co.: Augusta, 1832, Drummond (G). Sumter Co.: sandy bog, Aug. 26, 1896, R. M. Harper (NY). Colquitt Co.: moist pine barrens, between Moultrie & Kingwood, Sept. 22, 1902, R. M. Harper, 1652 (NY). FLORIDA. Without stated locality, ex. Herb. Chapman, Columbia College (NY). Franklin Co.: Apalachicola, Aug. 20, 1872, Biltmore Herb., 579 b (G). Bay Co.: open sandy moist ground, Lynn Haven, Oct. 12, 1911, C. Billington, 168 (US). WALTON Co.: boggy places, in pine barrens, Argyle, Oct. 2, 1901, A. H. Curtiss, 6923 (G, NY); moist soil, in pine barrens, Crestview, April 21, 1899, Biltmore Herb., 579 a (US). Orange Co.: flatwoods, Vineland, Oct. 17, 1929, F. Vasku & E. West (NY). ONTARIO. Lambton Co.: meadows, Squirrel Isl., O. A. Farwell, 7103 (G, isotype of Lacinaria spicata var. foliacea); Sarnia, Aug. 11, 1894, C. K. Dodge (G, Ot); borders of marshes, Pt. Edward, R. St. Clair, Aug. 11, 1884, J. Macoun (G, Ot); marshes, Pt. Edward, Aug. 12, 1901, J. Macoun, 26616 (NY, Ot); meadows on Squirrel

Isl., Sept. 3, 1924, O. A. Farwell, 7102 (G). Essex Co.: Sandwich, July 27, 1901, J. Macoun (G, NY); damp thickets, Sandwich, Aug. 4, 1892, J. Macoun, 22751 (G, NY, Ot); near Mineral Springs, Windsor, July 31, 1894, A. W. Cody (Q). MICHIGAN. Tuscola Co.: near shore of Lake Huron, 9 mis. e. of Bay City, Aug. 3, 1940, H. A. Gleason, 9913 (NY). Kent Co.: Grand Rapids, Aug. 3, 1886, A. A. Crozier (US, ND). St. Clair Co.: banks of Governmental Canal, Lake St. Clair, July, 1893, T. Morong (NY); Port Huron, C. K. Dodge, Aug. 6, 1896 (G); Aug. 11, 1894 (NY); Fort Gratiot (within Port Huron), 1829, Dr. Pitcher (NY). Oakland Co.: near Lake Orion, Aug. 3, 1913, B. F. Chandler (US). Washtenaw Co.: low marshy meadow, 1.3 mis. e. of Dexter, Aug. 20, 1937, F. J. Hermann, 9141 (G, NY, US). JACKson Co.: Watkins Station, Aug. 4, 1892, C. F. Wheeler (US); low ground, 10 mis. s. of Jackson, Aug. 24, 1906, S. H. Camp & D. R. Camp (US); without stated locality, Aug. 12, 1896, S. H. Camp & D. R. Camp (US). KALAMAZOO Co.: swampy soil, n. of Pawpaw Lake, Texas twsp., July 23, 1930, C. R. Hanes (NY); n. of Pawpaw Lake, the "Mud Hole" ½ mi. s. e. of Vicksburg, Aug. 8, 1940, F. W. Rapp, 3625 (NY). OHIO. ERIE Co.: Castalia prairies, Aug. 7, 1895, E. L. Moseley (US). Lucas Co.: Dorr St., Toledo, Aug. 4, 1920, E. L. Moseley (G). Lorain Co.: Lorain to Huron, Aug. 24, 1924, R. J. Webb, 5476 (G), Aug. 24, 1924, R. J. Webb & G. A. Cook, 1612 (G). STARK Co.: south swamp, Canton, Aug. 1912, June 25, 1912 (No. 13) Mrs. F. E. Case (US). CHAMPAIGN Co.: without stated locality, Aug. 9, 1893, W. C. Werner (NY). Pickaway Co.: Kibler's bog, ½ mi. s. of Circleville, July 28, 1936, Bartley & Pontius, 39 (NY). Mont-GOMERY Co.: Dayton, Aug. 15, 1881, A. Foerste (US). Ross Co.: Frankfort (some white), Aug. 9, 1935, D. Demaree, 11496 (G, US). INDIANA. Co. undetermined: low ground, e. of Chicago, Aug. 30, 1891, W. S. Moffatt, 1627 (US). LAKE Co.: moist prairie 1/4 mi. n. of Griffith, Aug. 29, 1916, C. C. Deam, 21324 (US); moist prairie ditch, ¼ mi. n. of Griffith, Aug. 29, 1916, C. C. Deam, 21330 (US); Hammond, old beaches "Lake Chicago", Sept. 14, 1909, E. S. Steele, 147 (G, US); Buffington to Pine, old beaches "Lake Chicago", Sept. 20, 1909, E. S. Steele, 181 (G); open place in oak woods, ½ mi. n. of Griffith, Aug. 29, 1916, C. C. Deam, 21342 (US); Whiting, Aug. 29, 1893, N. L. Britton (NY); dry sands, Pine, Aug. 31, 1895, L. M. Umbach (US); low sands, Pine, Aug. 27, 1897, L. M. Umbach (US); swales, Pine, Aug. 19, 1898, L. M. Umbach (US). Noble Co.: low sandy and marl border, Eagle Lake, Sept. 14, 1916, C. C. Deam, 21889 (US). Marshall Co.: Lake Maxinkuckee, July 12, 1899 (No. 731), July 28, 1899 (No. 848), B. W. Evermann, (US); near Lake Maxinkuckee, 1900, J. T. Scovell & H. W. Clark, 1430 (NY, US), Aug. 26, 1900, J. T. Scovell & H. W.

Clark, 848 (NY); Plymouth, Sept. 21, 1909, H. W. Clark (US). STARKE Co.: low sandy border, s. e. side of Bass Lake, Aug. 22, 1916, C. C. Deam, 21084 (US); open places in sandy woods, s. e. side of Bass Lake, Aug. 22, 1916, C. C. Deam, 21038 (US); sandy soil, Sept. 28, 1940, C. M. Elk (NY). NEWTON Co.: fallow sandy field, 5 mis. n. & 1 mi. w. of Enos, July 27, 1940, R. C. Friesner, 14697 (NY). TIPTON Co.: w. of Goldsmith, Aug. 2, 1913, Mrs. C. C. Deam, 13921 (G, US); along the right of way of Erie Rwy., ½ mi. w. of Goldsmith, Sept. 3, 1914, C, C. Deam, 15362 (NY). ILLINOIS. McHenry Co.: (albino), McHenry, Aug. 23, 1935, H. C. Benke, 5760 (G). Cook Co.: Chicago, H. H. Babcock, 1860, Dr. Scammon (NY, US); South Chicago, 76th & Stoney Isl., Aug. 4, 1913, H. H. Smith, 5737 (G); waste places, Chicago, Aug. 16, 1897, L. F. Ward (US); in vacant lot, Chicago, Sept. 2, 1893, L. F. Ward (US); near Pullman, Aug. 27, 1893, G. B. Sudworth (US); W. Pullman, near 119th St., Aug. 8, 1907, J. M. Greenman, 1972 (G); along rwy., Lake Villa, Aug. 10, 1906, H. A. Gleason & F. D. Shobe, 243 (G); wet intervals, old beaches, Indiana Harbor, Sept. 15, 1909, E. S. Steele 148 (US); Cicero, July 20, 1896, Mrs. A. Chase (NY); Riverdale, Aug. 1909, J. M. Greenman, 2866 (G, US); vacant lot, Evanston, July 4, 1911, E. E. Sherff (US); Morgan Park Ridge, Sept. 8, 1907, R. A. Dixon & C. A. Gage, 789 (US, Q). KENTUCKY. CALLOway Co.: between Murray & Pine Cliff Ferry, July 23, 1937, L. B. Smith & A. R. Hodgdon, 4202 (G, NY, US). TENNES-SEE. Robertson Co.: rocky hills, Aug. 19, 1897, H. Eggert (NY). Dickson Co.: dry oak barrens, Burns, Aug. 17, 1939; H. K. Svenson, 10485 (B). Cocke Co.: 3 mis. w. of Wolf Creek Sta., Aug. 30, 1897, T. H. Kearney, 746 (NY). Cumberland Co.: Mayland, Aug. 16, 1934, Porter & Harbison, 3059 (NY). Van Buren Co.: grassy swamps, between Spencer & Cagle, Aug. 1938, H. K. Svenson, 9678 (B). Coffee Co.: oak barrens n. of Manchester, Aug. 6, 1938, H. K. Svenson, 8959 (G, B); swamp, 2 mis. s. of Manchester, Aug. 18, 1940, H. K. Svenson, 10606 (B); low fields, near Tullahoma, Aug. 10, 1899, Biltmore Herb., 579e (NY, US); dry oak barrens, Tullahoma, Aug. 24, 1930, H. K. Svenson, 4231 (G, P, B). CHESTER Co.: borders of thickets, 1892, S. Bain (US); fields, Henderson, S. M. Bain, June, 1892 (No. 81) (NY), Aug. 1892 (No. 81) (G). Franklin Co.: wet places in oak barrens, between Tullahoma & Estill Springs, Aug. 13, 1939, H. K. Svenson, 10490 (B). ALABAMA. Without stated locality: M. Lea (G). HALE Co.: dry chalky prairies, 1 mi. n. w. Rosemary, Aug. 23, 1934, R. M. Harper, 3254 (G. NY, US). Lee Co.: Auburn, Aug. 11, 1897, F. S. Earle & C. F. Baker, 1160 (NY). BUTLER Co.: grassy pine barrens, near Bolling, Aug. 28, 1885, J. D. Smith, 427 (US). HENRY Co.: dryish swamp border, 8 mis. n. of Headland, Aug. 10, 1927, K.

M. Wiegand & W. E. Manning, 3174 (G). MISSISSIPPI. Wayne Co.: Waynesboro, Aug. 8–9, 1896, C. L. Pollard 1248 (G, NY, US, ND). Jackson Co.: Ocean Springs, Aug. 14, 1889, Herb. F. S. Earle (ND). Harrison Co.: Biloxi, Aug. 23, 1898, S. M. Tracy 4886 (NY). WISCONSIN. Kenosha Co.: Pleasant Prairie, 3 mi. south of Kenosha, Aug. 7, 1941, E. P. Kruschke, K-41-175 (G), K-41-179 (G) (albino). MISSOURI (possible garden escape). St. Louis Co.: St. Louis, July 7, 1910, E. E. Sherff, 288 (G). LOUISIANA (possible garden escapes). Rapides Co.: Alexandria, J. Hale (G). Orleans Co.: New Orleans, 1835, Dr. Ingalls (NY).

(To be continued)

Betula Glandulosa at a low Altitude in New Hampshire. —While vacationing in Jackson, N. H., in late September, a few years ago, we drove up the Black Mountain Road, turning right, near Whitney's, into the Dundee Road. After a short way we parked our car in front of a house, on the right side of the road—a house which we used to call "the house with the chimney outside." We walked through the yard, past the house and barn, and went a short distance into an open upland meadow-like pasture, to enjoy the view. This location was on the lower north-east slope of Tin Mountain, possibly 400 feet below the summit, which is only 2025 feet.

As we sat there, I examined the low growth around me, and saw, to my great amazement, what looked exactly like Betula glandulosa, which I had never collected before except in the alpine region of the Great Range. However, Professor Fernald has identified the specimens I sent him and this establishes, evidently, an exceptionally low altitude for B. glandulosa.—Charlotte Endicott Wilde, Canton, Massachusetts.

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